

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

3535 S. Sherwood Forest Boulevard, Suite 135, Baton Rouge, LA

September 19, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Ben Babin, Jerry Thibeau, David Hoover, Lionel Bailey, Burrell Carter, Willie George Lee, James Little, Larry Thomas, Don Thompson, Kenneth "Wade" Welborn

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ARBC Commissioner Tamiara Wade arrived at 6:07 pm

Vacancy: East Feliciana Parish

Vacancy: St. James Parish

ALSO PRESENT: ARBC Executive Director Dietmar Rietschier, ARBC Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, ARBC Legal Counsel Larry Bankston

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Babin.
2. Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed for ARBC Commissioner (since 1992) Terry Louque who recently passed away.
3. Public Comments on Agenda Items: Mr. Jerry Klier, of Walker, Louisiana (honorary ARBC Board Member) discussed the need for a feasibility study for dredging of the Amite River.
4. Minutes
The Board unanimously approved a motion by Lee, second by Thomas to approve the August 2017 regular meeting minutes as presented.
5. Financial Statement Report:
 - Hoover presented to the Board the July and August 2017 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Bailey, second by Thompson to approve the July and August 2017 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.
 - Wade entered the meeting at 6:07 following the vote on the Financial Statements.
6. Report by Executive Director:
 - Rietschier informed the Board that a letter from ARBC President Ben Babin had been sent to USACE Col. Clancy as suggested by ARBC Commissioner Carter at last regular meeting of the Board. The letter stated: "It is our understanding the USACE is undertaking an additional review of the Benefit to Cost ratio on this Project. We would ask that this review be completed as quickly as possible. As you are aware, as a result of the 2016 flood, there was wide spread damage done in the greater Baton Rouge area. This Project is critical to the recovery of our area. While this Project would not have prevented all of the flooding damage, it certainly would have lessened the impact. The taxpayers in the Comite Diversion Taxing District have been doing its part in contributing local funds dedicated to this Project. The local taxpayers have been contributing funds for the Project since 2001. Governor John Bel Edwards has placed sufficient funds in the state's capital outlay bill to cover its portion of the Project. The non-federal sponsors have all of the required funding in place for our portion of the Project. The Amite River Basin Commission has done everything in its power to move this Project forward. At this point, we can only plead with the Corps to finish what it has started. The Commission stands ready to assist in any way possible. The ultimate completion of this Project lies solely with the United States Corps of Engineers. The Commission and the taxpayers in the District deserve a clear decision from the federal government concerning the viability of this Project."
 - Rietschier attended a meeting in Central last night regarding CRDC Project funding options.
 - Reviewed the August 2016 Flood Preliminary Report as prepared by Bob Jacobsen for the ARBC. This report is available online at www.amitebasin.org. The report has been emailed and mailed to affected cities, towns and villages.
 - George Hudson, with Gulf Engineers, presented to the ARBC Commission a GIS map showing the 2016 flood high water marks superimposed on a Regulatory 100-year Flood Insurance Rate Map in the vicinity of Central. The purpose of this superimposition is to be able to compare regulatory flood elevations to actual high water marks of the 2016 flood.
 - DOTD Susan Douglas: Regarding the CRDC Project, USACE is reviewing the 5th draft of the sale document for Tract 39, Beech Grove Farms, and is also continuing to review the HTRW for the Bourque tracts. As the reviews are completed, DOTD will move forward with these properties. We are not currently pursuing any additional land acquisitions at this time. We are currently finalizing comments on the 100% design for the US 61 crossing and will be providing those to the USACE when completed. These comments are for incorporation into the 100% design prior to bid development, and will reduce potential change orders

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should construction go forward. This 100% review is also necessary for issuance of the project permit needed for tie-ins of the bypass road and construction of the bridges. Further progress on utility relocations is waiting on federal funding to avoid spending money to initiate construction processes that won't be completed.

7. ARBC Legal Counsel: Discussed Tract 39 and Residential Rental Properties.
 - The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Hoover to authorize signing a Resolution to purchase Tract 39 after approval of the USACE in the amount of \$2,041,380 of which ARBC will pay half. Tract 39 is 362.88 acres and will cost \$5600/acre. Approval is subject to acceptable language approved by the USACE concerning mineral ownership by the seller.
 - The Board unanimously approved a motion by Carter, second by Lee to advertise for bids for residential rental properties.
8. Old Business: None
9. New Business: None

10. The meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

/s/ Ben Babin, ARBC President

Date: November 14, 2017

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary